was a grave defect and the Member pointed out the importance of constructing the road through Arattinkal. He prayed that a fresh survey might be made and the line traced through Arattinkal. He also requested that the Mukamma-Mararikulam road be metalled.

President's reply.—The opening of cross canals is receiving attention. Madayan *thodu* and Puttan *thodu* have been already taken up. The other canals will be taken up later.

The making of roads is costly in Shertallai. A road is being constructed along the west bank of the Alleppey-Shertallai canal now under construction.

The road from Shertallai to Arattinkal has been aligned to pass along the existing village road and passes by the Arattinkal church. The work on the Tannirmukkam road will be expedited.

65. Some urgent needs of Shertallai north.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karta (Member, Shertallai taluk) represented that two foot-bridges over the canal that runs north from Kuttiatodu to Veluttulli backwater, one to the west of Chemmanad temple and the other just to the east of the Sri Narayanapuram temple, were necessary and requested that those works might be soon taken up. He also prayed for two ferries—one between Kodanturuttu and Panappalli and the other between Trichattukulam and Eramallur. The last request of the Member was that the Puchakkal canal which had silted up might be deepened.

President's reply.—The two foot-bridges required on the Veluttulli-Kuttiatodu canal will be arranged to be put up. The two ferry services required on the Arukutty-Shertallai backwater at Kodanturuttu and Eramallur will also be ordered. The necessary repairs to the Puchakkal canal have been already ordered by the Chief Engineer.

65. Means of communication in Shertallai.

Mr. N. R. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) represented that the means of communication in the Shertallai taluk might be improved. He suggested the opening of Panappalli *thodu* to the Vayalarkayal *via* Lakshmipuram market. That would be midway between Shertallai town and Kuttiatodu—another opening to Vayalarkayal about 10 miles from Shertallai town. The opening would be through one of the most thickly populated parts of the taluk and through a thriving market. The Member said that, being just to the east of Antakarazhi, the canal suggested by him would be of great help to the discharge of the accumulated water in the backwater as a result of the opening of the Cochin harbour.

The Member also prayed for the gravelling of the road from Shertallai to Arur.

President's reply.—Your suggestions *re.* the extension of the Panappalli canal *via* Lakshmipuram market to Vayalar backwater are noted. The Chief Engineer will be asked to make an inspection of the locality and submit definite proposals as to the location of the cross canal in question.

In regard to the gravelling of the road from Shertallai to Arur, the first section will be taken up next year.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.—(*Concluded.*)

2. Forest.

67. Hardship caused to the agriculturists by the Forest Department.

Mr. U. M. S. Mohideen Pillai Rowther (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that he had in his first representation already stated the several requirements of the cardamom ryots, and that it was his intention, by means of the present representation, to bring home to the authorities the several hardships caused to them by the Forest Department. The cardamom cultivators being essentially agriculturists could naturally be expected to conform only to the control of the Revenue Department, but unfortunately for them, they were subjected to the control of the Forest Department also, on the officers of which the duty of the protection of the tree-growth on the cardamom areas devolved. He complained that it was the dual control exercised over them by

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the Revenue Department on the one hand and the Forest Department on the other that lay at the root of all their troubles. If a cardamom ryot at Devicolam cultivating 10 acres of land found it necessary to cut and remove some trees over four feet in girth, he had to apply to the Divisional Forest Officer at Kottayam or Malayattur and it would often take several months to get the necessary sanction from those officers. Another source of hardship was the imposition of a penalty by the Divisional Forest Officer if a charge of cutting trees from the cardamom areas was preferred by such low-paid Forest subordinates as Foresters, Guards, etc., who rarely visited the locality. He further observed that too much tree-growth on a cardamom garden would be as bad for cardamom cultivation as too little and the practical cultivator alone knew how many trees should be removed from a particular area for purposes of cardamom cultivation. The Member in conclusion prayed that the cardamom cultivators might be permitted to cut and remove as many trees as might be found necessary in the interests of cultivation.

President's reply.—Cardamom lands are situated within the Cardamom Hills Reserve, and as such, they have to be held subject to the control of the Forest Department. You have referred to the difficulty of obtaining permits for the felling of trees from registered cardamom lands from the Divisional Forest Officer who lives far away. The obtaining of permits cannot be dispensed with on this ground. The question of delegating the power of issuing permits to Range Officers will be considered, along with the revision of the Cardamom Rules which is now engaging the attention of the Government.

V. PUBLIC WORKS.—*(Continued.)*

68. Some local needs.

Mr. Aiyappan Raman (Member, Vaikam taluk) said that, after the annexation of Vaikom and the neighbouring taluks, many works of public utility were not being undertaken by the Government to improve the condition of agriculture in North Travancore. The Government themselves had acknowledged that the state of communications in North Travancore compared unfavourably with that in South Travancore, and promised that the grievance on that score would be redressed. But Vaikam remained in the same condition as ever. So early as 1062, Government had recognised the fact that expenditure on irrigation works was confined almost exclusively to South Travancore, while in North Travancore the repairs and restoration of irrigation channels and bunds were left for the most part to the ryots themselves. With a view to remedy that evil, a scheme was sanctioned by which an annual grant of Rs. 20,000, subsequently raised to Rs. 30,000, was allotted to the Northern and Quilon Divisions to be expended on irrigation and drainage channels. But the funds so allowed were not availed of to any large extent. Unless a declaration of policy was made by the Government and promptly followed up by necessary action by the Public Works Department, there was no hope of finding a solution to that vexed question.

The utter neglect of drainage channels in and around the town of Vaikam had made that town one of the most insanitary in the whole State. The construction of bunds at unsuitable places had caused ruin to cultivation due to stagnation of water in several places which prejudicially affected the health of the people. It was highly necessary that all the old canals should be repaired and maintained. On former occasions when the question was pressed on the attention of the Government by the members of the Assembly representing Vaikam, they were assured that the work of improving the drainage channels would be taken up soon, and in pursuance of that promise sanction had been accorded to the opening of the Kaniyan *thodu* and the repair of one or two canals in Vaikam town. Those repairs, however, had never been undertaken. Vaikam was the worst-served taluk in respect of means of communication. There was an old wooden bridge across the Puttanthodu just a furlong south of the Vaikam temple. The dangerous and dilapidated condition of the bridge had been pointed out to the Government long ago. A part of the bridge had fallen down. The Member requested that the restoration of that bridge might be taken in hand at once.)

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly